

FCC REPORTS NETWORK NEWS 6:30 JANUARY 1-15 / PART 1

01/01/13

MINIMUM WAGE GROWS BETWEEN STATES

VO / 21 SECS.

Hundreds of thousands of workers are set to get a pay raise to start 2013, as 10 states increase their minimum wage. Washington state will again lead the way Tuesday, raising its starting salary to \$9.19 an hour. Washington was first to adopt automatic adjustments in 1998 to compensate for inflation. Nine of the 10 states adjusting wages this week did so automatically. The adjustments have expanded the pay gap between areas that make annual adjustments and those that don't. Many states still follow the federal minimum wage of \$7.25. San Francisco has set the highest local minimum wage and will have workers paid at least \$10.55 an hour in 2013.

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01/02/13

US "FISCAL CLIFF" DEAL

LOURDES MELUZA / WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 1:55

President Barack Obama and congressional Republicans looked ahead on Wednesday toward the next round of even bigger budget fights after reaching a hard-fought ``fiscal cliff" deal that narrowly averted potentially devastating tax hikes and spending cuts. The agreement, approved late on Tuesday by the Republican-led House of Representatives after a bitter political struggle, was a victory for Obama, who had won re-election on a promise to address budget woes in part by raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans. But it set up political showdowns over the next two months on spending cuts and on raising the nation's limit on borrowing. Republicans, angry the deal did little to curb the federal deficit, promised to use the debt ceiling debate to win deep spending cuts next time.

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01/03/13

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

JAIME GARCIA / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:04

U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) officials announced on Thursday (January 09) they had identified and rescued 123 victims of sexual exploitation as part of Operation Sunflower. More than 240 adults were also arrested in the crackdown that targeted people producing or selling images of child pornography. Of the 123 children rescued, 110 victims were identified in 19 U.S. states. Forty-four were directly rescued from their abusers and 79 were identified as victims of sexual exploitation outside of their home or adults who were victimized as children, the agency said. Seventy were female and 53 were male. The operation spanned 47 U.S. states and six countries.

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01/04/13

US SLEEPY DRIVERS

VO / 23 SECS.

Some new data may encourage you to pull over if you're feeling sleepy behind the wheel. It turns out just osay they nodded off while driving in the previous month. Over four percent of drivers -- or about one in 24 -- That's according to a newly released study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It surveyed nearly 150-thousand people in 19 states and Washington D-C by telephone in 2009 and 2010. The study says research models estimate 15- to 33-percent of fatal crashes may involve sleepy driving. That's as many as one out of every three deadly crashes. According to the C-D-C, deaths and injuries are more likely in crashes that involve drowsy driving compared to non-drowsy driving crashes.

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01/05/13

GUN BUY BACK IN IN ARIZONA

VO 0:29

It looks like a gun buyback effort in Arizona may turn into a bidding war. The buyback plan is designed to let owners turn in unwanted guns for a small reward. The collected guns are then destroyed. But some gun enthusiasts in Tucson, including a state senator, plan to offer owners more than the city's gift cards for firearms. City officials say if people try to outbid the buyback program, they will not interfere.

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01/06/13

EARLY FLU SEASON

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ. NEW YORK

PKG 2:00

Across town, doctors at Rush University Medical Center have seen 203 flu patients since Nov. 5, compared with 119 patients for the entire flu season last year. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the proportion of people visiting their doctor for a flu-like illness has climbed from 2.8 percent to 5.6 percent in the last four weeks. That compares with 2.2 percent during last year's mild flu season and a peak of 7.7 percent during the 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic.

SCHOOL ARMED GUARDS

JAIME GARCIA. LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:00

Two of the country's largest counties will be sending armed guards to their schools beginning today as students head back to class after the holiday break. Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Arizona's Maricopa County, which includes Phoenix and Tempe, sent a group of armed volunteers, known as his "volunteer posse," to patrol area schools today. He had previously used the group to help bolster security at area malls during the heavy holiday shopping season, and to scope out undocumented immigrants living in the county.

CRIME IN NEW YORK

VO :24

R. Bloomberg, along with Chief Policy Advisor and Criminal Justice Coordinator John Feinblatt, today released the January 2013 Criminal Justice Indicator Report, a review of critical indicators across the New York City criminal justice system. For the first time, criminal justice professionals, policy makers and the public will be able to access a range of City criminal justice data from various State and City agencies in one compilation. Users will gain insight both into the functioning of the system and ways in which it is

changing. The Indicator Report is an initiative designed to promote the use of data-informed decision making in the criminal justice system.

10 BILLION FANNIE MAE SETTLEMENT

VO :20

Bank of America has agreed to pay more than 10 billion dollars to Fannie Mae to settle claims over foreclosure abuses during the housing crisis. As part of the deal, Bank of America will pay more than three billion dollars in cash to Fannie Mae and also repurchase more than six billion dollars in questionable loans. The bad loans were issued between 2000 and 2008 by Countrywide Financial, the banks mortgage financier. It lead to massive losses for Fannie Mae, a government takeover and a 116 billion dollars bailout to keep it afloat. According to the Los Angeles Times, Bank of America is among more than a dozen big banks negotiating settlements over foreclosure practices. Bank of America ha llegado a un acuerdo con Fannie Mae por el que pagará a la agencia hipotecaria más de 10.000 millones de dólares, unos 7.600 millones de euros, para compensarla por la colocación de 'hipotecas basura' entre 2000 y 2008.

10 BANKS TO PAY \$8.5 BILLION

VO :22

They're accused of seizing homes when their customers defaulted on mortgages. Now, some banks are paying billions for it. Ten of America's biggest banks have agreed to an 8-point-5 billion dollar settlement over alleged foreclosure abuses. The deal, announced today (Monday), was brokered by the Federal Reserve and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. It requires the ten banks to pay more than 3-billion dollars in direct payments to mortgage borrowers who were foreclosed on in 2009 and 2010.

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01/07/13

FLU LATEST

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ. NEW YORK

PKG 2:00

The CDC said the proportion of people visiting health care providers with flu-like symptoms climbed from 2.8 percent to 5.6 percent in four weeks. By contrast, the rate peaked at only 2.2 percent during the relatively mild 2011-12 flu season. The estimated rate of flu-related hospitalizations in the U.S. was 8.1 per 100,000 people, which is high for this time of year, according to Dr. Joe Bresee, chief of the epidemiology and prevention branch of the CDC's influenza division.

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01/08/13

ILLINOIS HOUSE APPROVES DRIVERS LICENSES FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

VILMA TARAZONA / MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG 2:04

The Illinois House of Representatives on Tuesday voted to grant temporary drivers licenses to illegal immigrants, the final legislative step before Democratic Governor Pat Quinn is expected to sign the measure into law. Illinois would be the fourth state to offer some form of permits along with Washington state and New Mexico, which offer drivers licenses, and Utah, which provides driving permits. The vote in the General Assembly or House, was 65 to 46, after the state Senate on Dec. 4 overwhelmingly approved the legislation. Supporters said an estimated 250,000 illegal immigrants drive in Illinois and the measure would make the roads safer by subjecting migrants to driving tests. Republican opposition to drivers licenses for illegal immigrants faded after the Nov. 6 election when Hispanics voted heavily for the reelection of President Barack Obama and Democrats in the Illinois state legislature.

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01/09/13

GUN CONTROL

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ / NUEVA YORK

PKG 2:05

Vice President Joe Biden said on Wednesday the White House is determined to act quickly to curb gun violence and will explore all avenues - including executive orders that would not require approval by Congress - to try to prevent incidents like last month's massacre at a Connecticut school. Kicking off a series of meetings on gun violence, Biden said the administration would work with gun-control advocates and gun-rights supporters to build a consensus on restrictions. But he made clear that President Barack Obama is prepared to act on his own if necessary.

FEDERAL BENEFITS WILL BE SWITCHED TO ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

PABLO SANCHEZ / WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 1:51

The U.S. Department of the Treasury reported that 5 million checks continue to be mailed to federal beneficiaries each month on Tuesday, Jan. 8. With just two months remaining until the March 1, 2013, electronic payment law goes into effect, the Treasury Department is urging Social Security and other federal benefit recipients to not delay and switch now to either direct deposit or the Direct Express® Debit MasterCard® card.

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01/10/13

FLU SEASON

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ / NEW YORK

PKG 2:00

The CDC said the proportion of people visiting health care providers with flu-like symptoms climbed from 2.8 percent to 5.6 percent in four weeks. By contrast, the rate peaked at only 2.2 percent during the relatively mild 2011-12 flu season. The estimated rate of flu-related hospitalizations in the U.S. was 8.1 per 100,000 people, which is high for this time of year, according to Dr. Joe Bresee, chief of the epidemiology and prevention branch of the CDC's influenza division. Boston declared a public health emergency Wednesday as flu season struck in earnest and the state reported 18 flu-related deaths so far. The city is working with health care centers to offer free flu vaccines and hopes to set up places where people can get vaccinated. The city said there have been four flu-related deaths, all elderly residents, since the unofficial start of the flu season Oct. 1.

NRA MEETING WITH BIDEN

PABLO SANCHEZ / WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:00

Despite fresh opposition from the National Rifle Association, the Obama administration is assembling proposals to curb gun violence that would include a ban on sales of assault weapons, limits on high-capacity ammunition magazines and universal background checks for gun buyers. Sketching out details of the plan Thursday, Vice President Joe Biden said he would give President Barack Obama a set of recommendations by next Tuesday. The NRA, one of the pro-gun groups that met with Biden during the day, rejected the effort to limit ammunition and dug in on its opposition to an assault weapons ban, which Obama has previously said he will propose to Congress.

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01/11/13

BIDEN VIDEO GAMES MEETING

PABLO SANCHEZ / WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:06

Representatives from the companies that make ``first-person shooter" games such as ``Call of Duty," ``Medal of Honor" and ``Grand Theft Auto" met with Vice President Joe Biden on Friday as the Obama administration looks for ways to curb U.S. gun violence. Biden is heading a task force formed after a gunman shot dead 20 children and six adults last month at a Connecticut elementary school. Biden plans to make recommendations on reducing gun violence to President Barack Obama by next Tuesday.

OBESITY CLINICS

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ / NUEVA YORK

PKG 2:04

There are some clinics in New York City that are helping obese kids. They offer classes of how to prevent obesity and how to eat healthy. They also provide different exercise classes including karate.

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01/12/13

US FLU LATEST

GONZALEZ / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:06

The flu is particularly bad this year, with the outbreak hitting 47 states. Doctors' offices and hospital emergency rooms are overwhelmed with patients ; they're running low on vaccines and flu treatments. Even though millions are suffering, the Centers for Disease Control is hopeful that the virus may have peaked in the first areas where it hit hard - the south and southeast. Those that thought ahead and got a vaccine already have the odds in their favor - 62 percent are not seeing symptoms. The CDC says that

while not perfect, the vaccine is the best way to try to avoid the illness. More than 128-million vaccine doses have been distributed nationwide. But clinics can 't keep up with the demand, and pharmacists are struggling to fill prescription drug orders.

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01/13/13

US WINTER FREEZE IS A THREAT TO CALIFORNIA'S \$1 BILLION FRUIT CROP

GONZALEZ / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:08

It's edging toward midnight and John Gless is keeping a wary eye on the thermometer as he patrols his family's 450 acres of citrus orchards outside Hemet. The temperature hovers just above 30 degrees as he maneuvers his Ford F-250 pickup through the dark canyons between 18-foot trees of Valencia and navel oranges. A few degrees colder, as the forecast predicts, and the millions of dollars of citrus dancing in his headlights will start to freeze. Gless and citrus farmers across the state have been up all night since Thursday, when arctic winds began pushing down a cold front that threatens the \$1 billion in oranges, lemons, tangerines and grapefruit still on trees in California, the nation's largest producer of fresh citrus. A high-pressure zone sitting off the Pacific Coast has channeled a blast of cold air from the Gulf of Alaska down the backbone of the state. Temperatures on Saturday night were expected to dip as low as 25 degrees, triggering freeze warnings across Southern California. Starting Monday, cold Santa Ana winds will sweep in from the desert, keeping temperatures low but stirring up the air enough to eliminate most of the threat to the citrus crop. By Wednesday, temperatures should begin to rise.

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01/14/13

GUN CONTROL

LOURDES MELUZA. WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:23

Vice President Joe Biden and members of President Barack Obama's Cabinet will meet on Monday with members of the U.S. House of Representatives as he prepares recommendations on how to curb a rash of gun violence in the United States. Nearly 80,000 Americans were denied guns in 2010, according to

Justice Department data, because they lied or provided inaccurate information about their criminal histories on background-check forms. Yet only 44 of those people were charged with a crime. The staggeringly low number of prosecutions for people who "lie and try," as it is called by law enforcement officials, is being studied by the Obama administration as it considers measures to curb gun violence after the Connecticut elementary school shootings.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

LUIS MEGID. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:00

Today, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) held a forum to listen to the ideas of local community members on the topic of immigration reform. Over 60 representatives from different organizations in the South Florida community were in attendance. On that afternoon over one million undocumented immigrants marched on Los Angeles City Hall. For one day, one million people stepped out of the shadows - mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, grandmas and grandpas. They were hardworking people who are always told that they are to blame for the country's problems.

LATINOS AND FLU

JAIME GARCIA. LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:00

Get a flu shot. That's what the Centers for Disease Control is urging Latinos to do as the most aggressive flu outbreak in years sweeps the nation. There's a reason the CDC is making a concerted effort to target Latinos. The demographic is less likely than other ethnic groups to take measures to prevent the flu. That's because Hispanics have more limited access to medical care than other ethnic groups, particularly Latinos that have arrived in the country recently. Latinos are also more likely to face language barriers and to move from location to location for work. But flu vaccines can be especially important for Latinos. Hispanics are more likely to have pre-existing conditions such as diabetes, he said, which can make getting the flu much more dangerous. Efforts by the CDC and other governmental and nonprofit groups to inform Latinos about vaccinations are underway, though. Information has been distributed to targeted communities in the form of Spanish-language videos and pamphlets.

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01/15/13

GUN VOTING

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ. NEW YORK

PKG 2:00

President Barack Obama is launching the nation's most sweeping effort to curb gun violence in nearly two decades, urging a reluctant Congress to ban military-style assault weapons as well as the kinds of high-capacity ammunition magazines used in last month's massacre of 20 elementary school children in Newtown, Conn. The broad package Obama will announce Wednesday will also include efforts to stop bullying and boost availability of mental health services. It's expected to include more than a dozen steps the president can take on his own through executive action. Those measures will provide a pathway for skirting opposing lawmakers, but they will be limited in scope, and in some cases, focused simply on enforcing existing laws. But Congress would have to approve the bans on assault weapons and ammunition magazines holding more than 10 bullets, along with a requirement for universal background checks on gun buyers.

WAL-MART VETERANS

VO :20

Wal-Mart, the nation's largest retailer, will announce Tuesday a plan to hire every veteran who wants a job, provided that the veterans have left the military in the previous year and did not receive a dishonorable discharge. The announcement, to be made in a speech in New York by William S. Simon, the president and chief executive of Wal-Mart U.S., represents among the largest hiring commitments for veterans in history. Company officials said they believe the program, which will officially begin on Memorial Day - May 27 this year - will lead to the hiring of more than 100,000 people in the next five years, the length of the commitment.

COCA-COLA OBESITY

VILMA TARAZONA. MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG 2:00

Now to Coca-Cola, fighting back against attacks by anti-obesity advocates. The iconic American brand is under SIEGE by those new restrictions on sugary drinks taking effect across the nation. But now Coke's new advertising push says the company has changed its ways. ABC's Jim Avila is in Washington with that.

SANDY AID

VO :20

More than 10 weeks after Superstorm Sandy brutalized parts of the heavily populated Northeast, the House approved \$50.5 billion in emergency relief despite a large no vote from Republicans. Republican leaders struggled to close out an episode that exposed painful party divisions inside Congress and out and the final vote was 241-180. Officials say the Senate is likely to accept the measure early next week. Conservatives failed in an attempt to offset a part of the bill's cost with across-the-board federal budget

cuts. The vote was 258-162. Sandy has been blamed for 140 deaths and billions of dollars in residential and business property damage, much of it in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. The House measure includes about \$16 billion to repair transit systems in New York and New Jersey and a similar amount for housing and other needs.

=====END OF PART 1=====